

Maxwell who served his country honorably from a very young age.

Larence C. "Larry" Maxwell entered the United States Army shortly after completing high school and began a journey that would see him serve in multiple wars and conflicts for thirty-two years throughout the world culminating with promotion to Command Sergeant Major, the highest enlisted rank in the Army.

The son of Andrew and Addie Maxwell of Chowchilla, Larry was born in Madera on December 21, 1946. He was raised in Chowchilla, where he attended elementary school and attended Le Grand High School. In 1965, he entered the Job Corps. In 1966, he was drafted at age nineteen and subsequently enlisted in the Army. He completed basic training at Fort Ord, California and then Advanced Individual Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, where he was selected for training as an Army Engineer Heavy Equipment Operator. His first duty assignment was with C Company, 94th Engineer Battalion in Nillingen, Germany, where he assisted in the construction of facilities for ammunition and equipment when France resigned from NATO.

Vietnam was the next tour for the young Army combat engineer. He was assigned to the 92nd engineer Battalion in January 1968 as a heavy equipment operator and squad leader. The 92nd was known as the "Black Diamonds" and gained a reputation as the "can do" unit during combat operations, earning fourteen battle streamers in Vietnam and four Meritorious Unit Commendations and the Vietnamese Civil Action Honor Medal First Class. Maxwell participated in the Tet Offensive and four more major campaigns until his tour ended in January 1969. He was wounded by enemy mortar fire in May 1968 and was medevaced to the Army hospital at Bien Hoa and after recovery from his wounds he returned to the 92nd for duty.

He concluded his twelve-month tour and returned stateside. He took a brief break from the Army for two years before re-enlisting in 1971, and was stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas, with the 68th engineer Company as a squad leader and heavy equipment operator, where he worked on numerous projects including those for the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the Mescalero Indian Reservation. After Fort Bliss, he received orders to report to the 598th Supply and Service Company in Kaiserslautern, Germany, where he assumed duties as Class 3 Distribution Chief. He subsequently was promoted to Assistant Platoon Sergeant of the Equipment Platoon with the 370th engineer company. While serving in Germany, his unit was designated as the best engineer company in the U.S. Army.

In 1975, he reported to B Company, 43rd engineer battalion, Fort Benning, Georgia, where he served initially as a squad leader and promoted to platoon sergeant. With obvious leadership qualities, he was assigned to the 36th Engineer Group as an instructor in the Basic Leadership Course. His superiors selected him to attend the Engineer Advanced Course at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Upon completion of the Advanced Course, he was selected for Drill Sergeant School at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. After graduation from Drill Sergeant School, he served as Drill Sergeant from June 1979 to October 1982.

He returned to Germany as First Sergeant with the 58th Combat Engineer Mechanized 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment at Downs

Barracks, at Fulda, Germany. The unit was responsible for protecting the East/West German border. After completion of the tour with the 11th Armored, he found himself back at Fort Leonard Wood as First Sergeant of A Company, 6th Battalion, 10th Infantry Basic Training.

In June 1988, he was selected for the Sergeants Major Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas. After graduating from the Sergeants Major Academy in January 1989, he was assigned to Army forces at Camp Nimble in Korea as First Sergeant of B Company, 44th Engineer Battalion. The 44th had responsibilities for duties on the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). In September 1989, he was promoted to Sergeant Major and served in the capacity in Korea at Camp Mercer.

After returning stateside, he assumed duties as Sergeant Major for the 535th Prime Power Detachment at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. The 535th had teams stationed in Kentucky, Georgia, Virginia, New Jersey, Panama, and Germany.

At the beginning of the Gulf War, Maxwell was designated Command Sergeant Major. In the U.S. Army, the leadership position of Command Sergeant Major is the highest enlisted rank and acts as the senior enlisted advisor to the commanding officer and represents all the enlisted soldiers of the command.

Maxwell was made Battalion Sergeant Major of the 43rd Engineer Battalion and deployed to Saudi Arabia, where he became Command Sergeant Major of Task Force 43 assigned to echelons above corps during hostilities with Iraq.

After the Gulf War, he participated in disaster relief during Hurricane Andrew. He deployed to Somalia twice, first as Sergeant Major with Task Force 43, 10th Mountain Division, and the second time when his battalion was attached to United Nations' forces for the construction of Victory Base. He subsequently deployed to Panama and Costa Rica for civic action projects and construction of medical aid facilities. His last assignment was Command Sergeant Major of the 84th Engineer Battalion and Sergeant Major of the 45th Corps Support Group (Forward), with the Army's famed "Tropic Lightning" 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. While at Schofield, Maxwell deployed with units throughout the Philippines, and other areas. After thirty-two years of service to his country, he retired from the U.S. Army in 1998 and returned to Madera.

For his service, Command Sergeant Major Maxwell was awarded numerous decorations including: two awards of the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, three awards of the Meritorious Service Medal, four awards of the Army Commendation Medal, three awards of the Army Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with five campaign stars, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, two awards of the National Defense Service Medal, United Nations Medal, ten awards of the Good Conduct Medal, two awards of Humanitarian Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry Unit Award with frame, the Southwest Asia Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, two awards of the Army Service Ribbon, four awards of the NCO Professional Development Ribbon, the German Schutzenschnur, the Bronze and Silver de Fleury Medal, and the

Drill Sergeant Badge. During his military career, Larry earned an Associate of Arts degree from Central Texas College.

After retirement from the Army, Larry worked as a Corrections Officer for the Madera County Probation Department, where he performed duties as an instructor in ceremony and physical drill at the boot camp. In 2000, his drill team won the Grand Prize at the Fresno Veterans Day Parade. He was promoted to sergeant in 2002 and continued to teach and counsel adolescents to become productive members of society until his retirement from the Probation Department in January 2010.

Larry is a life member of Chowchilla VFW Post 9896 and American Legion Post 148. He is a member of the Army Engineer Association, the Noncommissioned Officers Association, the Association of the United States Army, and the Armed Forces Association. He is a member of the Grace Community Church and is a volunteer with Food Bank.

Larry has two brothers, Charley Maxwell (deceased) of Idaho, First Sergeant (Ret.) Donnie Maxwell, Sr. of Madera, and three sisters, Donna Lea and Bonnie Bartley of Madera, and June Maxwell of Cleveland, Oklahoma. Larry married his first wife, Linda Swilley of Chowchilla and had three children, Garry Maxwell and his wife Tonya of Falmouth, Kentucky, and a daughter Samantha and husband Tim Richards of Chowchilla, and daughter Wendy and husband Chris Yowell of Chowchilla. Larry married Ronda Davis of Mulberry Indiana, who has two children, Jonathan Shambaugh and wife Melanie of West End, New Jersey, and Courtney Shambaugh and Andrew Watkins of Highland, New Jersey. Larry has thirteen wonderful and very active grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Larence C. "Larry" Maxwell for his honorable service to our great country, and wishing him the best of luck and health in his future endeavors.

HONORING MRS. DIANE McMANUS

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2011*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Diane McManus who will be retiring after 25 years of outstanding work in the field of commercial lending and finance.

Throughout her career, Diane has been a committed advocate on behalf of Maine's business community. As Vice President of Finance for Development Concepts Inc., she worked hand in hand with companies to locate new investment streams and further develop their business models. Diane brought this background with her to Northeast Bank where, as a loan officer, she continued to provide resources to help grow Maine enterprise. Her devotion to local commercial development, and the successes that followed, have earned her numerous promotions and professional accolades. As Regional Vice President and Senior Market Manager at Camden National bank, Diane is leaving behind a thriving program that covers \$82 million in commercial loans.

Diane has not only excelled within the realm of business, but she has gone above and beyond expectations to serve her community as

well. In 2002, she was awarded the Maine State Chamber Volunteer of the Year Award. In 2004, she earned the Chamber of Commerce Ken Additon Small Business Advocate Award, and most recently, Diane was recognized as the Number one U.S. Small Business Administration 504 Lender in the State of Maine by the Granite State Development Corp.

It is always with some lingering sadness that I pass along my best wishes for the retirement of an individual such as Ms. McManus. Though retirement is well-deserved and will begin a new and exciting chapter in her life, it also signifies that Maine is losing one of its most dedicated and valued employees. Diane's perpetual willingness to believe in Maine businesses has touched the lives of countless entrepreneurs throughout the state. I wish her the very best going forward as she takes this exciting next step.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Diane McManus on her retirement and honoring her 25 years of impeccable commitment to her field and her community.

#### RECOGNIZING AMERICA'S MINERS ON NATIONAL MINERS DAY

#### HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2011*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following.

Watching coal-miners at work, you realize momentarily what different universes people inhabit.—George Orwell.

George Orwell was humbled by coal miners—brave and earnest individuals who work hard hours, often in cramped, damp, lamp-lit corners far below the surface of the Earth. He was shocked by the living and working conditions he witnessed while he boarded in the coal mining communities of Northern England, accompanying the miners underground to see, first-hand, the hot, horrible conditions under which they labored.

"Down there," he wrote, "where coal is dug is a sort of world apart which one can quite easily go through life without ever hearing about. . . . It is so with all types of manual work; it keeps us alive, and we are oblivious of its existence. More than anyone else, perhaps, the miner can stand as the type of the manual worker, not only because his work is so exaggeratedly awful, but also because it is so vitally necessary and yet so remote from our experience, so invisible, as it were, that we are capable of forgetting it as we forget the blood in our veins."

Even now, in an age of Twitter and reality TV, when every aspect of life can be beamed around the world in an instant, it is too easy to forget about the miner and his daily digging chores, sequestered far from our view, though intimately connected to so many of our daily needs and desires.

Yet, from time to time, something happens to remind us of that separate world. Unfortunately, that something is, too often, a tragedy, like the explosion at Massey Energy's Upper Big Branch Mine in Southern West Virginia, on April 5, 2010, that took the lives, far too soon, of 29 hardworking men.

In the hours following that explosion, reporters from around the Nation flocked to the mine

site, nestled in a rural mountain fold not far from my home. Every phase of the attempted rescue effort was captured and broadcast around the globe, and for many tense and worrisome hours, coal miners were very much on the minds of the world, holding its collective breath and hoping for a miracle—a miracle that was not be.

Now, after the passing of many months, it is clear that the loss of those 29 miners was not due to one unpreventable, fateful incident, but, instead, it was the result of a pervasive, long-running, callous corporate culture that put production and profit far above people.

It is no coincidence that, today, the Mine Safety and Health Administration is releasing its final report on the UBB disaster. This day, December 6th—the anniversary of the 1907 Monongah Mine disaster, the worst mining disaster in American history—is also the Congressionally designated "National Miners Day."

I am proud to have been the author of the House Resolution that sought to establish this date as a milestone of national recognition and remembrance of America's miners. It is a shameful truth that each advance in our Nation's mine safety system has come only after a mine disaster. But I hope that this day might alter that tradition and serve to bring the miner out from the dark of the mines into the national light for at least one day each year. It seems to me far preferable that our national conscience be kindled not by tragedy, but, instead, by celebration.

And so I urge that, at least on this one day each year, the Congress and all Americans will turn our attention to recognizing the contributions that miners have made to our Nation—its economic vitality and its military strength. And that we will take this annual opportunity to help ensure that these men and women are assured of safe, healthy, humane conditions in which to earn an honest living. America and American miners deserve no less.

#### HONORING LEWIS WILLIAMS

#### HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2011*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and highlight the distinguished life and career of the Honorable Lew Williams, who passed away sadly on December 3rd, 2011. Mr. Williams was a member of the Pinellas County School Board and a local educator. His impact on our community will be felt for years to come. He leaves behind two children and his wife, Arthurene.

Mr. Williams was elected to the Pinellas County School Board in 2010. However, over his lifetime, his impact was profound. Quiet and reserved, he chose his words carefully in a way that would be sure to have the most impact. His colleagues on the School Board have noted that he often had the ability to drive debates to a solution, while being one of the quietest individuals in the room. In his time on the Board, he was able to move the district in a different direction and was instrumental in leading the fight for changes in the district's superintendent position.

Lew Williams was born in Blakely, Georgia, but moved to Florida at a young age. Growing

up in public housing, he saw education as a means to future success. Two educators saw his potential for achievement and helped pay his way for college. He graduated from Allen University with a bachelor's degree and South Carolina State College with a master's degree.

Mr. Williams was instilled with the same optimistic belief in those around him. He started out as a social studies teacher, but eventually went on to become a principal at five different Pinellas County schools. In 2010, Mr. Williams was elected to the School Board seat for District 7. Local educational leaders, such as the current head of the local teachers union, credit him for seeing leadership in them when he chose to hire them. His hard work, sacrifice and determination have truly impacted our community and continue to do so.

The Tampa Bay community mourns his loss and is so thankful for his many years of service to students and our community. I ask that you and all Americans remember such a remarkable educator for his ability to inspire success in others.

#### HONORING DR. CHARLES GRINDSTAFF

#### HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2011*

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in memory of Dr. Charles Grindstaff, a great man, devoted educator, and public servant from Southwest Virginia. Dr. Grindstaff left us on December 2, 2011.

Born on September 3, 1947, in Bluefield, W. Va., Dr. Grindstaff was raised in the small town of Bishop, Va. He later earned degrees from Tazewell High School, East Tennessee State University, Radford University, and NOVA University. After God and family, Dr. Grindstaff's passion was education. Since 1969, Dr. Grindstaff—often known simply as "Dr. G"—served students as a teacher, administrator, and professor in Tazewell County Public Schools, Horry County, SC Schools, and at Concord University in Athens, W. Va. For over 15 years, Dr. Grindstaff also served the Town of Tazewell as a councilman and as mayor until the time of his death. He was an avid sportsman, enjoyed performing in local theatre, and sharing his musical talents. Dr. Grindstaff leaves behind his wife Suzanne, daughters Heather and Christina, and his son Andy, as well as three grandchildren.

Dr. Grindstaff, through both his work in the classroom and local government, impacted countless lives. He was also my District Director Michelle Bostic Jenkins' principal at Jewell Ridge Elementary and taught with her mother for several years. After a flood on the Clinch River destroyed many of their belongings, Dr. Grindstaff was there willing to help. He was well known for his exceptional goodwill and dedication to the Tazewell community. I am honored to pay tribute to this great man's many contributions. His legacy and influence will be long remembered in Tazewell and throughout Southwest Virginia. He will be missed, but never forgotten.